

USEFUL INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Below are some basic signposts and contacts that will help you plan and support your educational provision. This list includes recommendations by home educating families.

For further support and advice please contact an Advisory Teacher:

Phone: **0330 222 3300**
Email: ehe@westsussex.gov.uk

THE LIBRARY SERVICE

The WSCC Library service is an excellent resource for all ages. In addition, they offer access to the internet, eBooks and special events.

Find a full [list of libraries in West Sussex](#), their contact details and the services they offer.

HOME EDUCATION SUPPORT GROUPS

There are a number of local and national groups that provide support and advice to home educators, including the organisation of learning and social events as well as providing advice and guidance on a range of issues. You will find many of the groups by searching on social media sites. Below are a couple of links recommended to us by home educating parents:

Ed Yourself

The site offers up to date information and resources on a wide range of EHE issues and has links to local groups in West Sussex.

[Ed Yourself website.](#)

Education Otherwise

A registered charity, supporting and providing information to home educating families in England and Wales

[Education Otherwise website.](#)

Home Education Advisory Service

HEAS produces a range of publications and leaflets on different aspects of home education. Annual subscription (currently £16) gives access to the advice-line, quarterly magazine, card for educational discounts, resources for loan and a regional list of other subscriptions.

[Home Education Advisory Service website.](#)

Email: admin@heas.org.uk

Telephone: 01707 371854

USING TUTORS

Some home educators choose to employ tutors for parts of their children's education. Tuition is an effective way of developing a child's confidence, knowledge and skills, but it can be expensive over time. Some home educators choose to team up with other parents and ask the tutor to provide small group tuition. This can reduce individual costs and give opportunity for group learning.

When considering employing a tutor, we recommend the following advice:

- Obtain references from families who have used the tutor;
- Ask to see the tutor's DBS documentation;
- Be clear about what areas of learning you want the tutor to cover;
- Ensure the tuition happens in an appropriate location with family members around.

GIFTED AND TALENTED

Potential Plus UK

Potential Plus UK is an independent charity which works with the whole family to support children with high learning potential (gifted and talented).

Potential Plus UK website.

THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

There is no requirement for EHE families to follow the National Curriculum, but some find it useful (particularly if waiting for a school place).

Find further details on the [National Curriculum](#).

TAKING EXAMS

There is no requirement for home educated students to take examinations, but many do to help with routes into post-16 destinations such as college.

Exam Centres

Currently there are a limited number of exam centres in West Sussex for private candidates to sit exams. It is advisable to contact local schools, academies and tuition centres well in advance of the month of May in which your child would be due to take GCSEs, to see if they accept private candidates. Find further information about [South and South-East England Exam Centres](#).

Parents who choose to educate their child at home must be prepared to assume full financial responsibility, including bearing the cost of any public examinations. The application process, costs and timescales may be different for each Exam Centre.

Additional information for private candidates wishing to take examinations can also be found on the relevant examination board website:

- [AQA](#)
- [OCR](#)
- [Edexcel](#)
- [WJEC](#)
- [Cambridge](#)
- [Oxford](#)

iGCSEs

Alternatively, a home educated child can sign up to study and sit iGCSEs. Find further information on [iGCSEs](#).

STUDENTS IN KEY STAGE 4 (14-16 years old)

When students reach the age of 14 they have other options to enhance their learning in a number of ways. These include:

Part-time College Provision

Some further education colleges run day courses for 14-16 year olds. This allows students to try new vocational activities and helps them to prepare for post-16, full-time college courses. The student will likely attend for 1-2 days a week and some colleges provide English and Maths learning alongside the vocational course. Please note that your child will still be registered as EHE even if they attend a part-time college course.

Please contact your local college for to see if they provide this as an option and further information on what they can offer to 14-16 year olds. Please note many colleges require young people to have been Electively Home Educated for a period of time before accepting young people.

Work Experience

This can be arranged by a family, but parents need to ensure the work place has the appropriate insurances in place. You should be fully acquainted with tasks that will be undertaken, the expected hours of attendance, dress code and the person responsible for your child during the placement.

Work Shadowing

This is when you arrange for your child to spend a half or whole day with someone at work. They can see if the job matches their expectations and qualifications, and ask about pay, see what the employee age range is, and discuss promotion prospects. They may be able to work shadow several different jobs.

Preparing for Post-16 destinations

The Government's Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) now means that all young people must remain in some form of education, employment or training up to the age of 18. Making post-16 plans is vital and can help guide what learning takes place in the build up to that time.

[Your Space](#) is a WSCC website for young people that has links to 'Find it Out' centres, offering advice and guidance on career choices, college applications and apprenticeships.

In addition, attending college open days and looking at their prospectuses helps to give young people an aim for the next steps in their education and career.

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

School Admissions - for questions about applying for a school place, please contact the Admissions Team:

Pupils Admissions North:

0330 142903 admissions.north@westsussex.gov.uk

Pupils Admissions South:

0330 142903 admissions.south@westsussex.gov.uk

Child Welfare - If you have concerns about the welfare of a child, please contact the [Integrated Front Door \(IFD\)](#):

01403 229900 WSChildrensServices@westsussex.gov.uk

If you have any further questions or need advice or support, please do not hesitate to contact the EHE Team:

Phone: **0330 222 3300**
Email: ehe@westsussex.gov.uk

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT

Should you have any concerns around the emotional wellbeing of your child, please click on the link below to explore **Your Mind Matters** and find details of how support can be accessed:

[Your Mind Matters - West Sussex County Council](#) - a new West Sussex Single Point of Access for emotional wellbeing and mental health support. The service provides a simplified single route so that children, young people, families, carers and professionals can be directed to the right service, eliminating the need to refer to multiple services.

[Mental health and wellbeing resources for parents, professionals and young people - Sussex Health & Care Partnership \(sussexhealthandcare.uk\)](#) - Resources are available to support parents, professionals and young people with mental health and wellbeing. The toolkits, created by partners across Sussex Health and Care Partnership give top tips on how to look after your mental wellbeing and links to helpful resources and tools.

[Pathfinder Mental Health Services in West Sussex | Support | Advice | Guidance \(pathfinderwestsussex.org.uk\)](#) - Looking for advice, information and services to support your mental health and wellbeing or supporting someone else? Find out about local services here.

[Supporting A Child With Anxiety | Tips & Advice | YoungMinds](#) - if your child is struggling with worry or anxiety, here are some ways you can support them and places you can get help.

[HOME | Hope Charity Project](#) - The HOPE Charity Project has been set up to help families in Sussex and surrounding areas who are worried or struggling to support their children suffering from mental health issues, or emotional health as we prefer to call it. We offer a very real, compassionate approach to providing advice, support, and comfort to the children, parents and siblings who are all affected by this growing nationwide problem.

[Reading Well \(reading-well.org.uk\)](#) - Reading Well supports you to understand and manage your health and wellbeing using helpful reading. The books are all recommended by health experts, as well as people with lived experience of the conditions and topics covered, and their relatives and carers.

[Teen Breathe magazine - Mindfulness & Wellbeing](#) - a bi-monthly magazine for ages 8-14 covering topics including mindfulness, wellbeing, creativity and health.

[Allsorts Youth Project](#) - Allsorts Youth Project listens to, connects & supports children & young people under 26 who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans or exploring their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (LGBT+).